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HANDLING OF REINDEER IN ALASKA
REQUIRES MODERN RANGE METHODS

Since 1920, when the Bureau of Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture began its studies to promote the progress of the reindeer industry in Alaska, the business has developed many improvements in the practices of handling the herds of reindeer in the Territory. A new circular on this subject just issued by the Department of Agriculture, written by Lawrence J. Palmer, director of the Reindeer Experiment Station of the Biological Survey at College, near Fairbanks, Alaska, summarizes recent developments in the Alaska reindeer industry and recommends practices which it is believed the industry would do well to adopt.

"The method of handling reindeer in Alaska," says the station director in the circular, "has changed generally in recent years to conform with modern practices of handling livestock. Formerly, with small-sized herds, the Old-World methods originally introduced by the Laplanders were successfully followed, but with the great increase in the numbers of reindeer the old methods no longer suffice and new and modern ones must be adopted. Close herding and roping on the open range can no longer be applied, and open herding and the use of better corrals and chutes are becoming the accepted practices."

The better practices recommended are concerned with herding, rounding-up, corralling, percentage marking, castration, feeding, breeding, and butchering.